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Sonoma Valleyans Near State Home Move For Protection Against Eldridge Escapes

SANTA ROSA, Mar. 27.—Declaring that they are living in alarm as result of the recent brutal murder of one of their neighbors, Herman Schieck, who was beaten to death by a fugitive from the Sonoma State Home, residents in the vicinity of the institution have appealed to Governor Earl Warren and to State Senator Herbert W. Slater and Assemblyman Richard H. McCollister to immediately take steps to protect their lives and property.

In a communication addressed to Governor Warren and signed by Irving Shepard, chairman of a committee of property owners, the group asks that the entire institution, or at least a strategic part of it, be enclosed by a high fence or wall to prevent escapes.

In case of escape they ask that the sheriff's office be notified immediately, and that all official cars equipped with radio be also notified by the institution staff.

They also ask that a signal be given by a combination of blasts on the institution siren to make it known that an escapee has left the grounds.

The letter to the governor reads, in part:

"The residents of Sonoma valley living in the region adjacent to the Sonoma State Home have become alarmed as a result of the killing of Herman Schieck and numerous other recent instances of escape of the inmates of the Sonoma State Home. The situation as it now exists is a threat to the safety of all persons living alone and not possessing sufficient bodily strength to combat or resist a criminally inclined adult inmate.

"While we appreciate that the Sonoma State Home may be handicapped by a manpower shortage and otherwise, which conditions may be largely responsible for the escape of the inmates, nevertheless, we feel that the danger is sufficiently grave as to justify the immediate existing procedure. Many other and effective measures could doubtless be conceived by those connected with the institution.

"We submit the foregoing with the request that these suggestions, if at all feasible, be adopted. We feel that the problem has reached the point that it is a matter of life and death with persons residing in the vicinity, and, therefore, we have determined to insist on its solution, to the end, that menace now threatening the homes of Sonoma valley residents may be eliminated.

"We are anxious to co-operate with the officials whom we know desire to solve the problem of the institution, but if they do not feel that way they are in a position to correct the situation, it is our desire to assist by placing the problem before higher authority. We shall, therefore, appreciate your comments and suggestions and a statement of what steps may be taken toward assisting us in the safeguarding of our homes."

Dr. Fred O. Butler, medical director of the institution, has on numerous occasions advocated that inmates of a dangerous mental type be placed in some other institution, pointing out that the state home for the feeble-minded at Eldridge does not have facilities to properly cope with criminally inclined mental delinquents.

Easter Cards—Ott's.

CARD PARTY

Eagles Auxiliary, March 28, 9 p. m. Eagles Hall. Refreshments. 35c.

Jewry To Fete Passover

Passover, the feast of unleavened bread, is to be celebrated this year beginning Wednesday evening, March 28, and continuing a week, the concluding service of the holiday falling on Wednesday, April 4.

The festival of Passover, called in Hebrew "Pesach," reaches back to remote antiquity when it was observed by the early Hebrew tribes as an agricultural spring festival. At an early period Pesach was transformed into a festival celebrating the redemption of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery.

By associating this festival with the deliverance of the Hebrews from the Egyptian yoke, the observance took on a new and greater significance. The festival and the ritual ceremony observed during the seven days in which it is celebrated among Reform Jews, or the eight days among the Orthodox, is not only identified with the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egyptian tyranny but further symbolizes joy in the triumph of liberty and freedom over oppression and slavery.

The feast of Passover is ushered in with a home ceremony, the "Seder," held on the eve of Passover. All members of the family participate in its observance. The ritual of the Seder includes the reading of the dramatic tale of deliverance, "The Haggadah," wherein the various events leading up to the Exodus and immediately following are told.

The "Seder" celebration radiates an exuberant spirit of thankfulness and joy, and the hopeful outlook for the final triumph of freedom for all mankind.

A dinner for 200 persons, mostly servicemen from Hamilton Field and Treasure Island, will be served on the eve of the "Seder" at the Petaluma Jewish Community Center. The chaplain from Two-Rock will be present and other rabbis from San Francisco plan to attend.

The affair will begin Wednesday evening at 8:15.

A 10 o'clock service will be held Thursday morning for Jewish servicemen and women at the center on Western avenue. During the week long festival, these men and women will be invited to private homes to share in the festivities.

Be sure to remove jewelry before applying creams, lotions or other refreshers to the face.

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